FACT SHEET

High Desert Corridor (HDC)

New State Route 138 Freeway/Expressway Project*

Project Location:

The proposed project is located in the High Desert area of Los Angeles and San Bernardino Counties and extends for a distance of approximately 63 miles between SR-14 in Palmdale and SR-18 in Apple Valley. In Los Angeles County, the HDC roughly follows the Avenue P-8 corridor. In San Bernardino County, the HDC runs slightly south of El Mirage Road and then follows Air Expressway Road near I-15. East of I-15, the proposed route curves south until it ends at State Route 18 in the Town of Apple Valley at Bear Valley Road. Please see attached map for further details.

Purpose and Need for the Project:

Improvements to this corridor are considered necessary to provide for the existing and projected traffic demand attributed to residential growth and increasing developments in the Antelope, Victor, and Apple Valley areas. This growth is resulting in inadequate capacity and accessibility along the existing east-west roadways as well as an increasing demand for goods movement corridors and access to regional airports.

Project Description:

The proposed project involves the construction of a new freeway/expressway and possible toll facility. The alternatives under consideration are dependent on expected traffic demands between SR-14 and I-15. Alternatives being studied include:

1. **No-Build:** Future conditions in the HDC study area without implementing the project.
2. **Transportation System Management/Transportation Demand Management (TSM/TDM):** Various operational investments and policies aimed at improving goods movement, passenger auto and transit travel.
3. **Freeway/Express Way:** Involves construction of a freeway in some areas and an expressway in others, depending on traffic demands. Variations in alignment in at least three locations will also be studied as shown on the attached map.
4. **Freeway/Toll Way:** An alignment similar to Alternative 3, with alterations made in coordination with a Public Private Partnership (P3) analysis. Variations A, B, and C would also be considered (see attached map).
5. **Avenue P-8 Corridor, SR-138 and SR-18 Improvements:** An alignment similar to Alternative 3 between SR- 14 and approximately 125th Street East. From 125th Street East, the route would curve south until it joins the existing SR-138. The existing SR-138 and SR-18 would be widened between approximately 146th Street East and I-15. The segment east of SR-395 would also be included as described in Alternative 3.
6. **Freeway/Express Way with right-of-way for a potential High Speed Rail facility:** Engineering alignment similar to Alternative 3 with the consideration of additional right-of-way for a High Speed Rail (HSR) facility.
7. **Freeway/Toll Way with right-of-way for a potential High Speed Rail facility:** Involves engineering alignment similar to Alternative 4 with the consideration of additional right-of-way for a HSR facility. Design variations of grade and alignment will be incorporated into and studied with the build alternatives

Environmental Process:

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires state and local agencies to analyze and disclose the potential environmental impacts of major projects. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is the federal law that requires federal agencies to analyze potential environmental impacts of major federal actions. The proposed project is subject to review under both CEQA and NEPA and an EIR/EIS will be prepared for this project.

Project Milestone Dates:

Public Outreach - Ongoing
Public Scoping Meetings- September 2010
Public Hearings- Winter 2012
Notice of Intent - September 2010
Draft EIS/EIR – Fall 2012
Final EIR/EIS- Spring 2013

*Freeway - A divided arterial highway with full control access and with grade separations at intersections.
*Expressway – An arterial highway with at least partial control access, which may or may not be divided or have grade separations at intersections.

We're here to get you there!
http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist07/travel/projects/138hdc